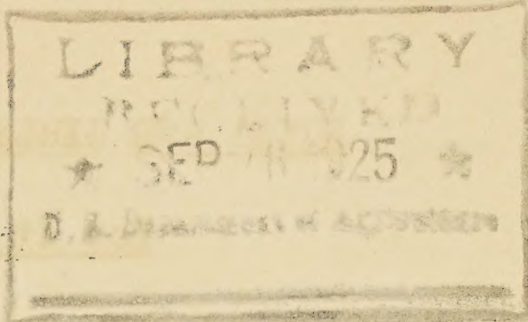


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB WORK

A scenic booth exhibit showing a critical period in the lives of parents and children; and how club work may successfully solve this age-old and perplexing problem.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 13 ft. front, 8 ft.
Wall space - - - - - None. (deep.
Shipping weight - - - - - 675 lbs.
Electrical requirements - 110 volt A.C. or
D.C. current. 200 watts needed for lights.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK

How It Looks

At the back of this booth is a miniature reproduction of a scene in a country home. The scene is a familiar one which happens in almost every home where there are children who have reached the age where they begin to think seriously of their career and have to decide between living in the country and becoming farmers or farmers' wives, or leaving the farm for city life.

The time is evening just after supper. The father has been reading and is interrupted by the mother who has left her dishwashing to talk over again with her husband the future of their children. The mother is seen absent-mindedly holding a plate and dish-towel in her right hand while pointing to her children with her other hand.

During the discussion the children are so intensely interested in a magazine showing scenes of busy city life that they are unaware of the subject of their parents' conversation.

Two large placards shown in the center near the back of the booth give considerable detailed information regarding the aims, accomplishments and enrollment of club work with boys and girls.

The open space in the booth is used as an information booth to give visitors an opportunity to talk over the work that is being done along this line.

The booth is 13 feet across the front, 8 feet deep and 7 feet high.

What It Tells

More than a half million farm boys and girls are enrolled in the Four-H Clubs of the United States. These clubs are organized and conducted by extension workers cooperatively employed by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural colleges as a part of the work provided for by the cooperative extension act of Congress. About 157 counties employ club agents; in

other counties club work is conducted by the county agricultural and home demonstration agents.

Every Four-H club member is engaged in learning and practicing the best known methods in some farming or homemaking activity, such as crop production, cattle feeding, gardening, pig and poultry raising, meal preparation, canning fruits and vegetables, construction and care of clothing, and management of the home. The club members keep simple records of all costs and profits connected with their enterprises from which they make a report to the club leader at the end of the season; they attend club meetings to discuss progress in the work and to talk over questions and problems which have arisen with the local leader or extension agent.

Club work brings rural and girls together socially. They observe parliamentary practices in their meetings. They exhibit their products at fairs, contest with each other, make tours of inspection of each other's work, meet together in summer camps or assemble at the State agricultural college for study and instruction -- then go back to the farm home with a new vision of rural life and an inspiration to do something worth while.

The originator and the exact date for the beginning of club work are not known but similar work was carried on in 1900 by school men. Boys' corn clubs were in existence as early as 1906. When provisions were made for organized extension work to be conducted cooperatively by the Department and the State agricultural colleges under the Smith-Lever Act of Congress (1914), the sphere of boys' and girls' clubs widened.

The symbol of the Four-H Clubs, the clover leaf, signifies the purpose for which the first clubs were created -- soil conservation, a quality for which clover is deservedly famous. To insure success in this and other undertakings which were soon added to club work, it was found necessary to train the mind or head, of the boy and girl to think plan, and reason; to train the hands to be skillful, to improve health and keep it good for efficiency and enjoyment, and to train the heart to be kindly and sympathetic toward the work and toward

associates so that all might work together harmoniously toward a common goal. The four leaflets of the club symbol represent these four H's, Head, Hands, Health and Heart. It is thought that through the Four-H clubs the boys and girls who are members may be kept in touch with the best in rural life and may, themselves, develop leadership, community responsibility and good citizenship.

Many former club members who are now grown are acting as local leaders of today's club boys and girls. Others are in college, often paying their own way with money earned by means of the club work. And an increasing number are carrying on profitable farm enterprises which they have developed from the start they obtained in their clubs.

Statistics for 1924 compiled by the Office of Cooperative Extension Work, show that distributed over all of the 48 States, 900,000 demonstrations of the latest improved methods of conducting farm and home activities were carried on by Four-H Club members. A very large number of these extended over an entire season and the method and result obtained were called to the attention of the community in which they were placed. In these demonstrations over 56,000 acres of crops were grown; 77,000 bushels of vegetables raised in home gardens; 93,000 farm animals were fed and cared for; and 599,513 head of poultry were raised. Club members canned during the year 2,500,000 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats. Over 322,000 articles of clothing were constructed, remodeled or selected by the club standards of suitability, healthfulness and becomingness.

Where to Get Information

County extension agents

State agricultural extension service, at the State college of agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

State and Federal reports on farm boys' and girls' 4-H club work